

<u>CATEGORY:</u>	CONSERVATION PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	012
<u>SUBJECT:</u>	Application	200
<u>TOPIC:</u>	Requirements of the Department	010
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A property tax credit may be granted for land on which a perpetual conservation easement has been donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust. (See Title 9-107 of the Tax-Property Article). This credit will first affect tax bills beginning with the 1987-88 tax year.

The three requirements to be met are that land is unimproved, non-commercial and subject to a perpetual conservation easement. With regard to the third requirement, the perpetual easement must be donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust with the Trust identified as a grantee under Title 3, Subtitle 2 of the Natural Resources Article, and it must be approved after June 30, 1986 by the Board of Public Works.

The property tax credit is effective for 15 consecutive years beginning July 1 following the donation of the easement. The property owner applies on the attached Conservation Property Tax Credit Application. The Conservation Property Tax Credit Application can only be completed after the easement is approved by the Board of Public Works, and the property owner must submit the application before October 1 to receive the credit for that taxable year. If the easement is donated after July 1, it can only qualify for the credit for the tax bill issued the next July 1. A copy of the application and supporting documents are to be sent to the Associate Director for Special Programs to verify that the legal requirements have been met. The original application is to be kept on file in the local Assessment Office.

In terms of the actual calculation, the tax credit is applied to 100% of the assessment placed on the unimproved and non-homesite portion of the property placed in the easement. The valuation and assessment of the conservation property shall be made in the same manner as any other real property in the county and in accordance with Procedure 014/080/010. It must be emphasized that the easement and credit do not apply to other unimproved recorded homesites. These reserved unimproved homesites should carry a farm assessment value provided the land is actively farmed. Improved homesites should be assessed in the normal manner.

Beginning with the first year and continuing for the fourteen years thereafter, the local Supervisor is to submit to the local government each year a copy of the assessment credit worksheet found on the reverse side of the Conservation Tax Credit Application.

Attachment 1 - 012-200-010
CONSERVATION PROPERTY TAX CREDIT APPLICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ACCOUNT OF:

_____ LAST NAME	_____ FIRST NAME	_____ MI
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ADDRESS:

STREET AND NUMBER

_____ CITY/COUNTY	_____ STATE	_____ ZIP CODE
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ACCOUNT NUMBER _____ CARD NUMBER _____

Donated in, part or totally, the above mentioned property to the Maryland Environmental Trust and Identifies the trust as a grantee under Title 3, Subtitle 2, of the Natural Resources Article. This perpetual conservation easement was accepted and approved by the Board of Public Works on _____
_____.

The conservation easement must be donated prior to July 1 of the taxable year to be eligible for a property tax credit for that year. The tax credit is in effect for a 15 year period. The property tax credit granted against the state, county, municipal corporation and special district property taxes under Tax-Property Article, Section 9-107, must be applied for on or before October 1 of that taxable year for which the property tax relief under this section is sought.

_____ SIGNATURE	_____ DATE OF
APPLICATION	

(Attach a copy of the Agreement approved by the Board of Public Works)

OFFICE USE ONLY

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI
ADDRESS/STREET AND NUMBER		ACCOUNT NUMBER

The assessment credit for the initial taxable year whether it be partial or total is listed below.

		ASSESSMENT	
FY	ASSESSMENT	NOT SUBJECT	SUBJECT
JULY 1	TOTAL ASSESSMENT	TO CREDIT	TO CREDIT
1) 19____	_____	Minus _____	Equals _____
2) 19____	_____	_____	_____
3) 19____	_____	_____	_____
4) 19____	_____	_____	_____
5) 19____	_____	_____	_____
6) 19____	_____	_____	_____
7) 19____	_____	_____	_____
8) 19____	_____	_____	_____
9) 19____	_____	_____	_____
10) 19____	_____	_____	_____
11) 19____	_____	_____	_____
12) 19____	_____	_____	_____
13) 19____	_____	_____	_____
14) 19____	_____	_____	_____
15) 19____	_____	_____	_____

The original copy of this application is to be kept on file in each local assessment office as a record and worksheet for future year computations of the assessment credit. A copy of this side of the application is to be submitted to each jurisdiction upon its approval by the local supervisor of assessments on a yearly basis. The initial fiscal year's credit is to be submitted after approval. The application must be made on or before October 1. The subsequent years' assessment credits are to be computed on this form and a copy submitted to each jurisdiction by June 1. A master list of all credits for the fiscal year will be supplied to each jurisdiction on October 15 (AIMS 11).

SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS	DATE
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